



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Present:** Nick Brodrick (NB) – chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Michel Thomas (MT), Rick Williams (RW).

**Apologies:** Rob Burkitt (RB), Sam Druiff (SD)

<b>23/53</b>	<p><b>Jordan Wyatt</b> The Chair opened the meeting by noting the recent sad passing of Jordan Wyatt, brother of the Women’s Team captain, Danni. The board recorded its condolences and welcomed the support being offered to the bereaved family by TUFC.</p>	
<b>23/54</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023</b> The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved with no matters arising.</p>	
<b>23/55</b>	<p><b>Relations with the Club</b> NB reported that the proposed second meeting with Dom Mee on 9<sup>th</sup> May had been cancelled with less than 24 hours’ notice. Despite a number of e-mails to DM, no response had been received until a call from him on 15<sup>th</sup> June to advise that George Edwards had deemed that there would be no further meetings for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that this was the final straw. TUST, and NB in particular, had made every effort to re-establish a meaningful relationship with the Club. For most of last season we had been very careful with our statements about matters of concern for fear of upsetting the executive and jeopardising the frail relationship.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that in future TUST must speak freely about any matter and raise members’ concerns with the Club regardless of any repercussions.</p>	

	<p>NB referred to the representative of Yeovil Town Supporters Trust saying at the recent SW meeting that the Trust regretted not being more proactive in its challenge of the football club during the troubled times last season.</p> <p>The Club should be wanting to engage with the only significant supporters' body. As things stand it is oblivious to criticism, however well intentioned or constructive that may be.</p> <p>For a start it was agreed that the Club should be asked to provide details of how TUST's sponsorship of the VIP Treats scheme had been used. Was the money all spent last season? Is some carried over to keep the scheme going in the coming season and if so how much? What have the club shop vouchers been used for? etc.</p> <p>Whilst the board welcomed the clear intention of the Club to mount a serious promotion challenge next season and the willingness of the owner to provide the finances to back this, it was disappointed that no one had offered any form of apology or taken any responsibility for the previous poor season and relegation.</p>	NB
20/56	<p><b>Finance report</b></p> <p>RW reported on the options for investing funds. It would simplify things if the deposits were with a single organisation and the United Trust Bank (UTB) currently offer some of the most attractive rates. As we had recently invested in a 3 month bond with UTB it was hoped that it would not be necessary to go through the arduous registration process again.</p> <p>After some discussion about the likelihood of needing to use the Forever Yellow funds in the short term, it was unanimously agreed to invest £30k in a 12 month UTB bond (currently offering 4.3% interest) and £20k in a 3 month UTB bond (currently 3.5%) and keeping £10k in the existing account where it can be drawn at any time. RW to arrange.</p>	RW
23/57	<p><b>Partner organisations</b></p> <p><b>a) Torbay Council</b> NB, RC &amp; RW to meet with the new council leader and deputy, Dave Thomas and Chris Lewis, the following day. An agenda for the meeting was agreed and the report prepared for the council last winter would be provided as a concise summary of TUST's concerns.</p> <p><b>b) Kevin Foster MP</b> NB, BC &amp; RD are due to meet KF on 30<sup>th</sup> June and an agenda for that meeting was agreed.</p> <p><b>c) Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b> There is still no news on a new chair or any other feedback. RD offered to contact the previous chair to see if they had heard anything.</p>	RD

<p><b>d)</b></p>	<p><b>Women's Team</b> NB reported that he had discussed the team's need for financial support with manager Steve Elswood. It was agreed in principle that TUST should continue to sponsor the team but with very clear conditions attached to avoid the confusion that arose last season around publicity and the use of the TUST logo on kit.</p> <p>NB to ask SE to provide a proposal for what is required for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p><b>e)</b></p>	<p><b>Travel Club</b> NB had exchanged e-mails with the organiser who had provided some explanation of how the TUST donation of £500 had been used. It was noted that it had been well received and appreciated by the travelling fans.</p>	
<p><b>f)</b></p>	<p><b>SW Supporters Trust Group</b> NB and BC summarised the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June. These had covered the ownership problems faced by Yeovil Town, trusts' relationships with their clubs, crypto currency in football and abuse of match officials.</p> <p>There was much interest in the 'Exeter City Ownership Model' and BC reminded the board of a previous proposal to invite representatives of ECST to attend a future Strategy Team meeting to talk about this.</p>	
<p><b>g)</b></p>	<p><b>Step One Walk and Talk event</b> Dom Bryant of Step One had been in touch with the Club and the first walk from Plainmoor is planned for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. TUST to promote the event.</p>	
<p><b>h)</b></p>	<p><b>Partners networking opportunity</b> It was agreed to proceed with the proposed informal meeting of the Flock of Gulls. MT &amp; BC volunteered to research venues and arrange the event, probably in September.</p>	<p>MT/BC</p>
<p><b>23/58</b></p>	<p><b>Media &amp; PR</b></p> <p><b>a) Facebook ban</b> TUST's Facebook page had been suspended since an item promoting Pride Month was posted at the beginning of June. It was assumed that this had occurred following a malicious complaint but all attempts to appeal had so far been unsuccessful. AB proposed to seek advice from a TUST member with relevant experience of these matters.</p> <p><b>b) FAQs</b> BC had amended the draft in response to previous suggestions. It was agreed to delay final approval until the next meeting. There was no rush to publish these until the season starts.</p>	<p>AB</p>

<p><b>c)</b></p>	<p><b>Ian Twitchin Trophy</b>  The Twitchin family are happy to arrange an event to present the trophy to Mark Halstead and have an ex-player lined up as guest speaker.</p> <p>The biggest problem is contacting MH to make arrangements. NB will ask Dom Mee if he can help. Otherwise, everyone was urged to think of ways of making contact.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p><b>23/59</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>a)</b> MT &amp; BC agreed to arrange a social evening of food and ten pin bowling for the board on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. The costs will be met by the board members, not from TUST funds.</p> <p><b>b)</b> RW proposed that the TUST objectives and Strategic Plan which was adopted in 2019 should be reviewed before the AGM in November.</p> <p><b>c)</b> NB advised that he had received an invitation from the Exeter City Supporters Trust to attend a dinner at St James' Park to celebrate 20 years of fan ownership on 4<sup>th</sup> September. MT accepted an invitation to join him at the event.</p>	<p>MT/BC</p> <p>RW</p>

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date .....